

2070th meeting

Wednesday, 13 July 1977, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. L. ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia)

E/SR.2070

AGENDA ITEM 3

General discussion of international economic and social policy, including regional and sectoral developments (*continued*) (E/5937 and Corr.1, E/5937/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2, E/5937/Add.2 and 3, E/5937/Add.4 and Add.14/Corr.1, E/5977-5980, E/5995, E/5996, E/CEPAL/1027)

AGENDA ITEM 11

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 2626 (XXV) entitled "International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade", 3202 (S-VI) entitled "Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order", 3281 (XXIX) entitled "Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States" and 3362 (S-VII) entitled "Development and international economic co-operation" (*continued*) (E/5939 and Corr.1, E/5942, E/5970, E/5974, E/5981, E/5985, E/5991, E/5992, E/5994, E/5999, E/6001, E/6016)

1. Mr. CORRÊA da COSTA (Brazil) said that, on several occasions during the present decade, hopes of achieving the basic goals of development had risen, only to be deflated when agreement was not followed by action. For five years,

the policy measures and targets contained in the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade had constituted the fundamental instrument in the field of co-operation for development. Half-way through the Decade, the Strategy should have been revised in order to preserve its dynamic nature, but attempts to do so had been frustrated. Expectations had then been revived by the adoption of resolution 3362 (S-VII) by consensus at the seventh special session of the General Assembly. Now, almost two years later, the same inconsistency that had thwarted previous endeavours was making itself felt, because the resolution had not been implemented; the developed countries had failed to adopt policies consistent with their responsibilities for development co-operation. While the main responsibility for development rested, of course, with the developing countries themselves, any measures adopted by those countries at the national level would hardly prove totally effective unless complemented by the necessary external factors.

2. While the United Nations, during the past few years, had been basically concerned with the over-all question of structure, other areas on which negotiations had been centred were concerned with commodities, tariffs, technology and transnational corporations. In all those fields, progress, if any, had been painfully slow. The Tokyo Declaration launching the multilateral trade negotiations, the attempts to formulate and adopt codes of conduct for

the transfer of technology and for transnational corporations, the negotiations to establish a common fund for financing buffer stocks of commodities under the Integrated Programme for Commodities had failed as yet to result in real progress. While recognizing the importance of the Council as a forum for a candid exchange of views, his delegation was coming to feel that the whole process of dialogue between the developing and the industrialized countries gave serious grounds for uneasiness; the same tune seemed to have been played once too often.

3. In 1975, at the Council's fifty-ninth session, it had still been possible to entertain hopes that a reasonable amount of progress would emerge from the mid-term review of the International Development Strategy and from the forthcoming seventh special session of the General Assembly. Now, as the end of the decade approached, it was disheartening to see that the political will necessary for an all-round effort in co-operation had not been shown and that developing countries were thus deprived of the opportunity to explore new courses of action.

4. One of the Council's next tasks would be to devise a suitable framework for future development plans, i.e. to draw up the international development strategy for the 1980s. In setting new targets, it would have to bear in mind the broad structural approach made possible through the decisions on the establishment of a new international economic order. But before that important task could be accomplished, it was necessary to identify the reasons for existing shortcomings. Failing that, there was no assurance that the objectives for the present decade would be attained. His delegation looked forward to the new phase of international co-operation for development; it believed that possibilities for agreement remained open, provided that the necessary will was shown by all the parties involved. It was imperative that commitments undertaken should be fully honoured, so as not to jeopardize the whole process of negotiation between developed and developing countries.

5. His delegation had listened with interest to the Secretary-General's statement on the establishment of an energy institute within the United Nations. The question of the functions to be performed by such an institute required further detailed study. Brazil's views on the matter had been expressed at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation and his delegation intended to revert to the question in the course of the present session.

6. The Brazilian Government attached particular importance to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development to be held in 1979. The success of the Conference, which was of crucial importance for the development process of the less favoured countries, would largely depend on careful preparation at the national and regional levels. His delegation was therefore pleased to note that the Committee on Science and Technology for Development had been fulfilling its task satisfactorily as the preparatory committee for the Conference. It recommended the adoption of the Committee's report on its first session²⁴ and welcomed the suggestions concerning

the preparation of national and regional papers for the Conference. It was worth mentioning that ECLA had decided in its resolution 374 (XVII) to convene a regional conference on the subject in 1978, with a view to seeking a common position for the region (see E/5945, p. 225).

7. The Brazilian Government also attached great importance to the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries, to be held at Buenos Aires in 1978. It hoped that the Economic and Social Council would continue to support the preparatory work for the Conference and that the Secretariat would spare no efforts to avoid delay in the preparation of documents. It would be helpful if the specialized agencies would play a more active role in activities concerning technical co-operation among developing countries by promoting the use of goods and services from developing countries in the technical co-operation activities of UNDP and of the specialized agencies themselves, by supporting technical co-operation between developing countries at the bilateral level, and by developing, in co-ordination with UNDP, the activities connected with technical co-operation among developing countries to be undertaken as a result of the Buenos Aires Conference.

8. With regard to the question of converting UNIDO into a specialized agency, it was to be regretted that the intergovernmental Committee of the Whole on the drafting of a constitution had been unable to complete its work, despite five strenuous sessions. However, the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 31/161 to hold a conference of plenipotentiaries not later than the second half of 1977 gave reason to hope that, by the end of the year, the international community would be in a position to celebrate one more step forward in the history of the United Nations.

9. While the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States was a document of recognized importance for the promotion of economic development, the reasons for which Brazil and other developing countries had voted against article 3 at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly in 1974 remained valid. The propriety of their position had been confirmed since then by the debates which had taken place in several international forums. For the same reasons, Brazil could not accept proposals for negotiations with implications which ran counter to the sovereign right of every State to dispose freely of its natural resources. In paragraph 116 of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress achieved by Governments in the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (E/5999), for example, the Government of Argentina, in its reply to the Secretary-General's questionnaire, mentioned as evidence of its respect for the principles contained in article 3 some agreements concluded with neighbouring countries on the basis of an exchange of information and previous consultation. That paragraph specifically referred to the Argentine proposal to Paraguay and Brazil for trilateral negotiations on the co-ordination of the Itaipú and Corpus hydroelectric projects on the Paraná River. The fact that such a proposal was referred to in an official Argentine document as being part of a process of previous consultation justified the objections raised by the Brazilian Government.

²⁴ A/32/43.

10. The Conference on International Economic Co-operation had kindled expectations among the developing countries; those legitimate expectations had hardly been satisfied by the actual results produced. Even in the areas in which agreement had been reached, it was questionable whether such agreement went beyond what had already been achieved in other forums. What was necessary at the present stage was for the international community to look at the Conference from a political standpoint, in order to assess it properly and draw upon it for future discussions. It was important that the momentum of negotiation should not be lost. As the Brazilian Minister for Foreign Affairs had said in his closing address to the Conference, it had at least been realized that expressions of goodwill unaccompanied by commitments were no substitute for action; the world had had more than its share of words and promises.

11. Mr. MILLS (Jamaica) noted that the present session of the Council came between the Conference on International Economic Co-operation, with its meagre outcome, and the resumed thirty-first session of the General Assembly, at which the global community was to take stock of the situation regarding the movement towards a new international economic order.

12. It was hardly surprising if at the present session of the Council there was deep concern on the part of many delegations at the extremely limited results achieved since the sixth special session of the General Assembly. While there had been movement in some directions and some very welcome changes of attitude and style, it remained necessary, once again, to state the basic proposition put forward by developing countries, namely, that the existing international economic system had been born out of specific historical conditions and had been designed to protect the interests of a small number of countries, many of which had at one time been the masters of colonial empires. That system was now in a state of collapse and would have had to be replaced, even if the developing countries had not put forward the idea of a new international economic order. The new system must cater for the interests of all countries and peoples. That was an inescapable political requirement, as had been the liberation of the third-world countries from the colonial system.

13. As the Secretary-General had said in his introductory statement, the industrialized countries seemed to have lost confidence in the dynamism of the world economy and were tempted to forget what international trade had done for them in the past quarter of a century. Nevertheless, there did at least seem to be an emerging realization, in some of those countries, that the situation they were facing was something more than a persistent weakening of their economic system. Economic growth was no longer guaranteed and all sorts of ills beset the economies of the industrialized democracies, yet the ordinary individuals—the voters—in those countries continued to make demands which could not be met, and that represented a challenge to the very foundations of their social, political and economic systems. Such an observer as Mr. Henry Kissinger had pointed to the danger in many Western countries that the demand for real increases in wages combined with an expansion of public spending might disrupt the political

system. The assumptions on which Western Governments had built the phenomenal economic growth of the post-war period—including the assumption of cheap resources—were no longer valid.

14. His delegation believed that the need for a new international economic order was now even more urgent than might have been apparent three years previously. The crisis in the Western world called not for negative attitudes, but for urgent and bold action in the direction of establishing a truly equitable, dynamic and stable international economic system, based on realistic and acceptable premises and dedicated to the interests of the entire global community.

15. The developing countries faced almost insurmountable problems, which had been aggravated in recent years by developments in the world economy. Mounting political pressures also centred upon such issues as the stimulation of economic growth, the redistribution of wealth, income and opportunity, the provision of welfare services, the control of population growth and the guaranteeing of human rights. Those were goals which represented the ultimate expression of the new international economic order, yet their achievement represented a bewildering task. In terms of the experience of most of the industrialized countries, it called for a reversal of the development process; social and economic justice and human rights were to be achieved in conditions of under-development, mass illiteracy and often inadequate institutional structures. The industrialized democracies had only found it possible to achieve those ends after they had built a viable economic base. In tackling that task, the developing countries realized that they must draw most of the resources from within their own commodities while seeking collective self-reliance by way of economic and technical co-operation among themselves. Those who failed to pursue those paths would eventually have to answer to their own peoples.

16. The developing countries hoped that the more endowed countries would understand the complexities of the tasks they had to face. They also asked for recognition of the fact that whatever the developing countries might achieve, they would continue to be at a grave disadvantage in their relations with the industrialized countries unless an economic system was created which took all interests into account. While Jamaica believed in the “basic needs” concept, in a direct attack on poverty, in rural development and in self-reliance, it could not regard them as substitutes for the restructuring of the global economic system. The move to create conditions of equity and social justice and to eliminate poverty was not merely a matter of enlightened administration and effective programmes and projects; it called for fundamental changes in the social, political and economic structures of countries. Such structural changes did not come easily; they met with strong resistance from privileged interests and required an unusual quality of leadership in political and other fields. In his delegation’s view, development was basically a political process.

17. The Conference on International Economic Co-operation had brought a greater understanding of some of the factors underlying the key issues of international economic co-operation. But, as the Jamaican Minister for Foreign

Affairs had said, it had once more centred around the idea of aid and concessions on the one hand and security for foreign investments and assured supplies of raw materials on the other. Such an outcome was perhaps inevitable because there were a number of industrialized countries which did not wish to restructure the global economic system.

18. The opportunity presented to the United Nations had never been greater than at the present time, and his delegation believed that the means existed to put the system in a position to meet that challenge. Work on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations had proceeded for two years with limited results. The fact that some progress had been made was largely due to the efforts of Mr. Dadzie (Ghana), Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System. He appealed to all delegations for a final effort to ensure that the Council would be in a position to present a full set of recommendations on the subject to the General Assembly.

19. The Council would be dealing with other important matters—such as institutional arrangements for human settlements, preparations for the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, transnational corporations—which were of particular importance to the developing countries. In addition, it would attempt to come to grips with the question of the United Nations role in the sphere of energy. Recent actions by the oil-exporting countries had helped to dispel the myth of the almost inexhaustible reserves of cheap energy resources. His delegation would therefore welcome the comprehensive examination of that question in the United Nations system.

20. Reaffirming its full support for the struggle against racism and colonial oppression in southern Africa, his delegation hoped that the Council would act positively in that area, in particular, by concerning itself with the serious dislocation and hardship now being suffered by the economies of Zambia, Mozambique, Lesotho and Botswana on account of their geographical situation and their support for the cause of liberation.

21. Mr. RANDOLPH (Togo) said that the third world was greatly disturbed by the lack of significant progress at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation, by the failure of the industrialized countries to establish a common fund as the central core of a system for stabilizing commodity markets and by the cessation of economic growth in both developing and developed countries. The world was passing through a profound crisis in the economic, monetary, social, moral and political fields. The breakdown of the world economy, resulting from an archaic system which no longer corresponded to the needs of a new society, and the growing gap between a small number of industrialized countries and a large number of developing countries called for bold solutions. The North and the South should abandon confrontation and turn to a dialogue in fraternity and sincerity. Man must be at the centre of the discussion and a new humanism evolved in which North and South with their complementary elements

of technology and raw materials would work side by side in solidarity.

22. Action must of course be taken to combat the deteriorating terms of trade for poor countries, commodity prices must be stabilized and indexed on the prices of manufactured goods, and the debt problem must be settled, but such efforts were unlikely to succeed unless the international monetary system was reformed. Since 1971, when President Nixon had decided to suspend the convertibility of the dollar into gold, the international payments system had been subject to frenzied speculation. The world had turned topsy-turvy, with some countries facing a serious deficit, while others had difficulty in coping with their surpluses. The present chaos of the world's economy confirmed the danger of using national currencies as the basis for international reserves and the increasing price of gold had sounded the death knell of the old monetary order.

23. In spite of the use of SDRs, the international economic and monetary confusion persisted, owing to the egocentric mentality of the rich countries. Reforms were proposed, but they merely sought to preserve the *status quo*, while nations cried out for liberty, justice and solidarity in a new order founded on complementarity. The rich countries continued to hold the poor countries in dependence and humiliation and had deliberately flouted the rules of IMF without fear of reprisals. But they should remember the lesson of the 1930s, when misery and starvation had brought in their wake the rise of fascism and an unprecedented war. The same process of crisis had been apparent since 1970; hundreds of millions of people in the developing countries were living in abject poverty, while the rich nations wallowed in selfish luxury.

24. The inflation imported from the rich countries had aggravated the wretchedness of the poor. The world was galloping towards an annual food deficit of 100 million tons, with price increases for the poor countries in imported foodstuffs and fertilizers. The annual balance-of-payments deficit of the developing countries had soared to \$60,000 million and would possibly double by 1980. The situation was exacerbated by the inadequacy of aid to development and the squandering of human and material resources on the arms race.

25. The logical reaction of the third world was resort to revolt and possibly revolution. Mere talk of solidarity would not save the world. The gulf between rich and poor countries could be bridged only by sweeping away the latter's dependence on the former and creating an entirely new order in all the basic aspects of international society. The monetary standard of the future must provide a genuine measure for production and trade, and the export earnings of the poor countries must be regularized so that they could finance their vital needs.

26. The growing support for indexation was undoubtedly a very clear demonstration that a more solid basis was being sought; the world should establish an international index based on the most widely used commodities as a reference value. In order to shake off their dependency, the third-world countries would also have to have access to science

and technology and they would need to ensure that the techniques they imported were appropriate to development plans evolved by themselves. They must learn self-reliance, and to that end they must develop their co-operation with each other. Such a course would not be without difficulties, but the developing countries must refuse to remain the damned of the earth and must seek a solution with the rich countries in a new humanism of justice and equality, peace and shared responsibilities, in which man's dignity and rights were respected.

27. Man was at the core of the debate in Azania, Namibia and Zimbabwe; he must regain his right to freedom. The efforts of the front-line countries in the battle for human rights in that part of the world deserved all praise. Present pessimism must give way to the optimism of a new humanism; any idea of "zero growth" or "negative growth" was unacceptable. The world looked to the United Nations and its Economic and Social Council to provide solutions so that all nations would work together in harmony.

28. Mr. COREA (Secretary-General of UNCTAD) said that he welcomed the opportunity to review the manner in which some of the key issues covered by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its fourth session, held at Nairobi in 1976, had evolved since then and to underline the nature of the tasks that lay ahead of UNCTAD.

29. The decisions taken at Nairobi on commodities had been far-reaching and there was an increasing acceptance on the part of the international community of the need for action on the Integrated Programme for Commodities. The developing countries had repeatedly reaffirmed their deep commitment to action on the problem, and the developed countries had shown, particularly in the more recent period, a greater awareness of the need for a positive response and a greater recognition that arrangements to strengthen the working of commodity markets would not only benefit the developing countries but would also lend greater stability to the economies of the developed countries. Indeed, the implementation of the Integrated Programme should be seen at present as one of the major elements in the reform and improvement of the global economy.

30. In the actual negotiations, on the other hand, there had been too little evidence of new attitudes. Thus, while the intensive process of meetings and conferences launched at Nairobi had been of value in clarifying issues, it had yet to result in acceptable programmes of action. There had been no conclusive results from the United Nations Negotiating Conference on a Common Fund under the Integrated Programme for Commodities, held in March-April 1977, and, with one or two exceptions, there had been no convergence of views on specific action to be taken on particular products.

31. The decision of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation, held in Paris, concerning the establishment of a common fund had given an undoubted impetus to the negotiations and now that the principle had been accepted it was possible to concentrate on its character and modalities. The success of the Negotiating

Conference in November 1977 would depend very largely on agreement on those vital questions. If there was progress on the common fund, it should encourage the process of negotiations on individual products. The commodity programme was one of the major issues in international economic relations now under negotiation in the international community.

32. Another major issue discussed at Nairobi had been the growing external indebtedness of the developing countries. The results at Nairobi and at the Paris Conference had been indeed limited. Under resolution 94 (IV) adopted at Nairobi and entitled "Debt problems of developing countries"²⁵ all action taken in that field was to be reviewed by UNCTAD at a session of the Trade and Development Board to be held at the ministerial level in 1977, but the action taken so far had been scanty and the international community needed to give the question more urgent attention. The large increase in indebtedness in recent years would undoubtedly affect development prospects for many years to come. The third part of the ninth session of the Trade and Development Board, held at the ministerial level, would in fact take place in March 1978, but meanwhile UNCTAD would convene preparatory meetings to ensure the effectiveness of that session.

33. UNCTAD activities in the field of the transfer of technology had also received strong impetus at the Nairobi Conference. Work on the code of conduct had been proceeding apace in a constructive atmosphere and UNCTAD looked forward to a successful outcome of the negotiations at the United Nations Conference on an International Code of Conduct on Transfer of Technology, scheduled for October-November 1978. UNCTAD was endeavouring to satisfy requests for assistance from developing countries in building up their own technological capacity and had instituted co-operative relationships with the secretariat of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

34. UNCTAD was also looking forward to positive results in the negotiations on acceptable rules and principles on restrictive business practices. It was engaged in fulfilling the tasks set for it by the Nairobi Conference in the field of trade between countries having different economic and social systems. In addition, it was particularly engaged in the problems of special categories of countries—the least developed, the land-locked and the island developing countries—and was also seeking to impart a new thrust to activities in the field of shipping and multimodal transport.

35. Recently, the extremely important issue of co-operation amongst developing countries had gained a new importance and momentum. The idea of collective self-reliance loomed large in the whole question of a new international economic order. During 1976, a series of meetings of the developing countries had given it a more specific form, and UNCTAD was seeking to respond to the new challenges it presented. As part of its permanent

²⁵ See *Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Fourth Session, vol. I, Report and Annexes* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.II.D.10), part one, sect. A.1.

intergovernmental machinery, it had established the Committee on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries. The Committee had already drawn up a programme of work enabling UNCTAD to respond to many of the specific requests addressed to it by the Conference on Economic Co-operation among Developing Countries held at Mexico City in 1976. The theme of co-operation among developing countries should be the concern of virtually all parts of the United Nations system, and UNCTAD looked forward to making its contribution and strengthening its co-operation with other agencies, especially the regional commissions.

36. The Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order encompassed much that was of direct relevance to UNCTAD activities. Those activities, however, were also of relevance to the immediate problems facing the world economy and the developing countries, which continued to suffer acutely from various difficulties affecting the global economy. Their efforts to cope with a vast and chronic balance-of-payments deficit through such expedients as the curtailment of imports and an increase in short-term borrowings had already planted the seeds of future problems. The response of the international community to the disruption of the process of achieving the ambitious goals and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade had not been adequate. The immediate answer was to provide adequate financial accommodation on appropriate terms, but more basic measures were also required. Action on commodities, on debts and on access to markets was of crucial significance and should be seen as part of a global package that would assist both in overcoming the present crisis and in contributing to the longer-term restructuring of the international economic order.

37. The international community would soon be engaged in establishing the strategy for the third development decade. In his report to the Trade and Development Board on the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the current Decade,²⁶ he had commented on the theme of the increased awareness of the need for new styles of development aimed more directly at improving the welfare of the populations of the developing world. But the quest for a new orientation was as relevant to the developed as to the developing countries and should not be regarded as lessening the overriding need for developing countries to transform their productive and technological capability, which would enable them to deal with their most urgent social and human problems. Nor must the search for new orientations be allowed to overshadow the urgent need for new structures and new directions in international relations. A suitable international framework was an essential condition for effective and successful development policies at the national level.

38. UNCTAD looked forward to playing its part fully and successfully in the tasks that lay ahead, in the light of creative responses to challenges, which, he was sure, would come from the Economic and Social Council in the months to come.

²⁶ "The evolution of a viable international development strategy: report by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD" (TD/B/642).

39. Mr. KIANO (Kenya) said that the basic concern of all the United Nations organs to preserve peace, promote freedom and justice and achieve decent living conditions for everyone in the world underlay all the items on the Council's current agenda. In facing up to such tasks and their attendant problems, it was essential to maintain a global outlook and recognize that suffering and deprivation in any part of the world affected all other parts too.

40. His delegation was deeply disturbed by the ever-growing economic gap between the developed and developing countries. It appreciated the efforts made, particularly under United Nations auspices, to combat poverty, disease and lack of education, but was sad to note the conclusions of the study recently made to appraise the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/5981). According to that study, if the minimum growth targets set for the developing countries were steadily achieved throughout the rest of the century, and if the developed countries' growth rates were meanwhile maintained at the current level, the economic gap in terms of *per capita* GDP would still not have begun to diminish by the end of the century. There was thus an urgent need for a revised strategy and for the political will to implement it. To say that was not to imply hostility towards the rich; the world economy was dynamic, and what was called for was a more equitable sharing of its continued growth. The task was to avoid the hitherto prevailing tendency for the creation of wealth to benefit the rich and to deprive the poor further.

41. For example, the developing countries had been raising year by year the production of their agricultural and other primary products, which were a major source of their development finance. Those commodities, however, continued to suffer from world market price fluctuations and uncertainties—a problem which, although recognized as long ago as 1964, at the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, remained unsolved. His delegation hoped for a firmer decision, in the near future, to implement one positive proposal—namely, the establishment of a common fund to stabilize primary commodity prices. Such a fund would serve to prevent the price fluctuations referred to; and prevention was much better than cure.

42. On the question of human settlements, his Government was firmly convinced that there was an inseparable link between human settlements and the environment and hoped that the resolutions adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements²⁷ would be speedily implemented. The Council was expected to submit to the General Assembly, at its thirty-second session, specific proposals for institutional arrangements in that matter. One step, namely, the creation of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation under the auspices of UNEP, had already been taken. There was thus a precedent for linking environment and human settlements topics in

²⁷ See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), part one.

one institution and thus avoiding an undesirable addition to the number of United Nations agencies.

43. At the United Nations Water Conference, his delegation had urged the need to provide clean and safe water to everyone throughout the world. The President of Kenya had repeatedly stated that water was the most indispensable factor in all spheres of human development. His delegation therefore hoped that the Council would submit to the General Assembly, at its thirty-second session, proposals for a suitable plan of action.

44. In southern Africa, valuable human and material resources were being destroyed in the fight against *apartheid* and colonialism, particularly in Rhodesia and Namibia. The Council, in surveying the world's economic and social conditions, could surely not fail to pronounce forcefully and categorically on ways in which the world community should act to eliminate those evils. All racist minority Governments in southern Africa must be removed without delay, and racism in all its forms must be destroyed. The Kenyan President and people were dedicated to liberation throughout Africa, and urgently called upon all Member States of the United Nations to dedicate themselves likewise.

45. Miss BROWN (Women's International Democratic Federation) speaking at the invitation of the President, said that the organization she represented had consistently applied, at the national and international levels, the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other related United Nations instruments. It actively supported the Council's efforts to achieve peace, disarmament, the elimination of colonialism and racism, the equality of men and women, democracy and national independence, in order to promote economic and social progress. It had responded to Council resolution 1580 (L) of 20 May 1971 on the contribution of the non-governmental organizations towards the implementation of the International Development Strategy, and in the course of the Second United Nations Development Decade it had arranged conferences, discussions and public debates, and had also, in its publications during the International Women's Year, substantially contributed to the implementation of the International Development Strategy.

46. Women's participation in the struggle of their peoples for freedom and progress had led to a general recognition of their potential. In the socialist countries in particular, the Constitution guaranteed women equal rights with men. However, despite efforts by the United Nations, its specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations and despite the Council's insistence on the achievement of the programme targets for improving the status of women, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) entitled "Programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women", discrimination against women remained a serious problem in many countries. Women were often at a disadvantage not only in law but in education, science and technology. They suffered too from the inflation and unemployment prevailing in the market-economy countries, from the repression and racial discrimi-

nation still practised in many countries and from the effects of the continuing arms race.

47. As part of the United Nations Decade for Women, the Women's International Democratic Federation had prepared a programme of activities, including seminars, conferences and discussions, to be held in various continents, on topics such as mother and child welfare, women's living and working conditions and the opening of national literacy and vocational education centres. A number of such seminars had already been held. The Federation was also preparing to give widespread support to the General Assembly's special session on disarmament and to the International Year of the Child in 1979. It also strove for the implementation of all the principles agreed upon at the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. It played an active part in the International Committee on the United Nations Decade for Women, and first international meeting of the Committee held at Berlin, had been attended by 51 national and 26 international organizations. Since the rights of mothers and those of children were closely connected, the Committee had proposed the holding of an international conference for the International Year of the Child.

48. The Federation's programme for the current year included seminars in various continents with other organizations concerned with topics such as education, the handicapped child and the rights of women and children.

49. The Federation thought that special attention should be given to the social aspects of disarmament and that the launching of a new development strategy should be seen more from a social and political viewpoint. It felt too that the Council should adopt, as soon as possible, the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, prepared by the Commission on the Status of Women for adoption by the General Assembly.

50. It was to be regretted that the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order did not emphasize the social aspects of human resources; not only the gap between developed and developing countries, but also that between the rich and the poor in all countries, needed to be closed. Economic growth in itself did not automatically improve the position of the poorest. Measures relating to income distribution, employment, women's rights, rural living and working conditions and social welfare should be regarded as basic preconditions for national economic development.

51. As was pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General on long-term trends in the economic development of the regions of the world (E/5937 and addenda and corrigenda), any realistic appraisal of future long-term trends had to bear in mind the various economic and development goals and targets accepted by United Nations bodies. The Federation endorsed the conclusion that the main obstacles to an acceleration of growth in the present century were social, political and institutional rather than material. The conclusions of various world conferences held since the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade should be

compiled and studied; it was also to be hoped that the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly would jointly decide to formulate and adopt a new development strategy, giving social factors greater priority.

52. Every 30 seconds a child died of hunger, while every day \$1,000 million was spent on armaments. It was clear, therefore, that the importance of disarmament could not be overstated and that at the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament children's welfare, which depended on world peace, should be considered.

53. The Federation would continue to assist in mobilizing public opinion, especially that of women, with a view to implementing the Council's decisions in furtherance of world economic and social progress.

54. Mr. DAVILA (Argentina), exercising his right of reply, said that, in view of the assertions in the Brazilian representative's statement, his delegation reaffirmed its

support for the principles embodied in article 3 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and in General Assembly resolution 3129 (XXVIII) on co-operation in the field of the environment concerning natural resources shared by two or more States. In accordance with those principles, Argentina had conducted all its activities regarding the exploitation of natural resources shared by two or more States on the basis of prior consultations. He referred to the statements made to that effect by his delegation in various forums. His country had consistently recognized the duty to co-operate and collaborate in all matters relating to shared natural resources. That policy was also pursued by the vast majority of countries, both developed and developing, and was consistent with the principles contained in numerous international and multi-lateral conventions; its main objectives were to avoid injury to neighbouring States and to ensure the optimum use by all concerned of the natural resources in question.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.
